

RESTRICTED

FILE

KK



bc BG

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. LANGDON  
CABINET OFFICE

cc Mr Wilson  
Mr Mundy

**BROADCASTING POLICY: MISC 128**

Many thanks for your minute of today's date. I have noted the plans for the meeting on 20 April and possible subsequent meetings. If the aim is to clear in correspondence the statement on local services, I think it would be helpful if the Home Secretary could circulate his draft well in advance of 20 April.

PAUL GRAY  
22 March 1989

RESTRICTED

Kuo

CC 14

K02152

MR GRAY

cc Mr Wilson  
Mr Mundy

BROADCASTING POLICY (MISC 128)

Mr Hyde's official group (MISC 129) met yesterday to consider a paper on local television services, and to take stock of the work that needed to be done in MISC 128 before the summer recess to enable the Broadcasting Bill to be prepared on time.

2. The decisions on local services are needed first simply because the White Paper contained a promise (paragraph 6.32) that the Government would announce its firm intentions on this topic by the end of April. While the local service issues are technically complex, however, they are by no means the most politically significant decisions that need to be taken.

3. The official group therefore agreed that the best way forward would be for the Home Secretary to aim to circulate a draft statement on local services in time for discussion at the MISC 128 meeting on 20 April if that was requested, but with the hope of clearing this item in correspondence. The Home Secretary would also circulate a general position paper, taking stock of the response to the White Paper; a paper on Channel 4; and a paper on ownership requirements for ITV franchises. I think that the meeting agreed with Brian Griffiths' comment that the Prime Minister might well not want to take decisions on the latter points until she could see them in context, but a preliminary discussion of these meaty topics would almost certainly provide MISC 128 with the most useful re-entry.

4. As things are shaping up, therefore, we may have a fairly general MISC 128 discussion on 20 April, followed by about three

RESTRICTED

meetings on specific issues before the end of June. But if the Home Secretary's statement on local services is not agreed in correspondence it may take up most of the first meeting, since some of the technical aspects are quite intractable.

*H Belcher*

*pp*

A J LANGDON

22 March 1989

RESTRICTED